

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-12 and 14-36 are pending are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5-10, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are amended and claims 19-36 are added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Nguyen to Applicants' representative during the April 12, 2004 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the Remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1, 5-12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Klaue, U. S. Patent No. 4,727,764. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Klaue fails to disclose a range shift display unit with a display processing means for driving a portion of a display corresponding to the target range selected by the driver by at least two driving methods for the target range, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 12.

As discussed during the personal interview, Klaue discloses a digital display 49, wherein during the axial movement of the gearshift rod 43, the driver is informed of the momentary position of the gearshift rod 43 through the digital display 49 (Fig. 4 and col. 5, lines 59-63). A warning signal, indicated by the indicator light 49a, informs the driver during the shift operation that a synchronization of the selected speed is not yet completed (col. 5, lines 63-66). In order to avoid unnecessarily long synchronization times in shifting down and to aid the driver in selecting a lower speed, the microprocessor causes the blinking, on another digital display, of the number of the lowest possible gear in which the input end of the transmission will not overspeed (col. 5, line 67 - col. 6, line 3). After the driver has moved the gearshift rod 43 to the lowest possible gear, as determined by the microprocessor, and after the synchronization has been completed, the warning signal 49a is extinguished (col. 6, lines 9-41).

Klaue also discloses, in another embodiment, a digital display 49 that starts blinking the number of the lowest possible gear (col. 7, lines 40-45). When the shift operation is completed, the digital display displays now permanently the number of the newly engaged gear (col. 8, lines 26-29). Like the first embodiment, the digital display 49 informs a driver of the momentary position of the gearshift rod 43 and another section of the digital display 49 blinks the number of the lowest possible gear.

Accordingly, when the driver moves the gearshift rod 43, the digital display 49 always informs the driver of the momentary position of the gearshift rod 43. It is only this portion of Klaue's digital display 49 that informs the driver of the momentary position of the gearshift rod 43 that corresponds to Applicants' portion of a display corresponding to the target range selected by the driver. Klaue fails to provide any disclosure with regard to the blinking of the display 49 or using at least two driving methods to inform the driver where the gearshift rod 43 is engaged at a given momentary position. In other words, a portion of the digital display 49 corresponding to the target range selected by the driver (i.e., the speed selected by the driver by moving the gearshift rod 43) is only driven by one driving method in Klaue. As such, Klaue fails to disclose Applicants' display processing means which uses at least two driving methods.

Applicants assert that the indicator light 49a that is used to indicate a warning signal and the other display that indicates the number of the lowest possible gear in which the input end of the transmission will not overspeed are not portions of a display that correspond to the target range selected by the driver. The speed selected by the driver by moving the gearshift rod 43 in Klaue corresponds to a target range selected by the driver. Logically, the portion of the display 49 that informs the driver of the selected speed is the only portion of the display corresponding to the target range selected by the driver. The indicator light 49a and the other display are not portions of a display that correspond to the target range selected by the driver.

The indicator light 49a and the other display do not inform the driver of the gearshift rod 43 position.

In fact, the indicator light 49a and the other display are driven based on a selection by the microprocessor. The indicator light 49a is operated when the microprocessor determines that synchronization of the selected speed is not yet completed. The other display is operated when the microprocessor determines the lowest possible gear. As such, the indicator light 49a and the other display are portions of a display corresponding to a range selected by the microprocessor and not by the driver.

Finally, the indicator light 49a and the other display are only driven by one driving method and not by at least two driving methods. In other words, the indicator light 49a and the other display in Klaue only blinks.

Accordingly, Klaue fails to disclose all of the features in Applicants' claims 1 and 12 or the additional features recited in the dependent claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5-12 and 14-36 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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